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- d) cooling the third refrigerating fluid to a third predetermined temperature lower than the temperature of the first refrigerating fluid by means of said second fluid; and
- e) cooling the first refrigerating fluid by means of the third refrigerating fluid stored in the cryogenic bath.

20 41. (New) A method according to claim 40, wherein the third refrigerating fluid is cooled to an intermediate temperature between the temperature of the first and second refrigerating fluids.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate improper multiple claim dependency and conform them to U.S. practice. Claims 21-41 are pending in this application. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application.

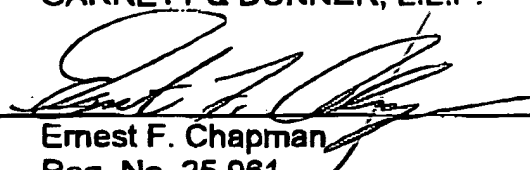
If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 28, 2002

By:


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